



CELEBRATING
OUR CENTENARY



ENGINEERS
AUSTRALIA

Hall of Fame Inductees

Engineering Heritage Queensland

William H. Robertson NIMMO CBE

MCE Hon FIEAust

1885 - 1970

INDUCTED IN 2014

William's almost single-handed work in 1933-34 investigated the water-supply and flood-mitigation requirements of Brisbane using, for the first time in Australia, unit-hydrographs and flood-probability studies combined with a flood-plain map of Brisbane for the economic assessment, which resulted in the construction of the Somerset Dam.

Nimmo was seconded from the Main Roads Commission, as Designing Engineer and later as Chief Engineer. Innovations in design and construction included measures to prevent hydraulic uplift, and hydraulic model studies of dissipater and sluice gates.

In 1942, Nimmo was Chair of the Board of Engineers that built Cairncross Dock. Somerset Dam was completed after World War II and Nimmo and his staff made many hydraulic investigations, including hydrology of the Channel Country, possible scour of the Burdekin River road/rail bridge, a study of the Burdekin scheme and of the Tully Falls hydro-electric project.

In 1949 he became Commissioner for Irrigation and Water Supply and directed the Department at a time of great expansion, which included the construction of the Tinaroo Falls Dam and the Mareeba-Dimbulah Irrigation project.

He was Chair of the Brisbane Division of Engineers Australia in 1937, Councilor from 1938 to 1955, President in 1949 and an Honorary Fellow from 1960. As Chair of the National Committee, he led the Australian delegation to the International Committee on Large Dams in Rome in 1961.

He was awarded the Peter Nicol Russell Memorial Medal of the Institution in 1950, the Kernot Memorial Medal of the University of Melbourne in 1956 and the CBE in 1962.

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